

## **SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 29 MARCH 2020**

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by ..... [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans as well as in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio and text bulletins may be downloaded from the League website at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za). To join the bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news, today:

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

TWO CONTESTS IN THIS WEEK

and

WIN AN SARL MEMBERSHIP WITH MY PROJECT

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We start the bulletin with news of two silent keys.

It is with deep regret that we must announce that the key of Dot Faber ex-ZS6BDB went silent on Sunday 15 March 2020. Dot was the widow of Reno Faber, ZS6OF. We extend our sincere condolences to the Faber family and friends.

It is with deep regret that we must announce that the key of Hubert von Heynitz, ZS6HUB went silent after a short illness earlier this month. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

PAUSE

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members, with everyone now in preparation for the 21-day national lockdown and disrupting our normal lives in a way that some of us have not seen before in our lifetimes, I would like to convey a few remarks that impact on SARL services.

The office is closed during the national lockdown. E-mails will be processed and answered.

No decision to postpone the RAE in May 2020 has been made. We will keep you informed.

Ensure to pay your amateur licence on time. Do not forget the Club licences!

On a positive note, this time is a good opportunity to keep growing your skills, to become more active on the air, to start or complete the project that you have in mind and to keep the interest in supporting amateur radio's future. Be assured that while we are unable to control this crisis ourselves, it is the reaction and response to the situation that determines how every one of our lives will develop. Make sure to follow the rules and guidelines as issued by the authorities. Ensure that you focus on the wellbeing of yourself and loved ones, including domestic priorities.

Keep informed, be safe and let us keep our frequencies active. 73, Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL

#### 2020/21 AMATEUR RADIO LICENCE PAYMENT

The 2020/21 Amateur Radio License fees will be implemented from Wednesday 1 April 2020. Radio Amateurs are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure their license is up to date. If for some reason no invoice is received, check that ICASA has been informed of any address changes. Ensure that your Club licences are also paid on time (the Club call sign and repeaters). The fees are R154 for a 1 year licence; R294 for a 2 year licence; R 422.00 for a 3 year licence; R537 for a 4 year licence and R642 for a 5 year licence.

You do not need an invoice. You will need your Licence Number (the 7 digit number on the top right of the licence form) or Call Sign (if you do not find your licence number) and decide if you want a 1, 2 3, 4 or 5 year licence. On the EFT, state 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 Year licence and your licence number and/or call sign! Send an e-mail to [specrev@icasa.org.za](mailto:specrev@icasa.org.za) and [dkuhrau@icasa.org.za](mailto:dkuhrau@icasa.org.za) with a copy of the EFT payment. The correct account for your ICASA Licence Fee is NEDBANK Account number: 14 62 00 29 27, Branch Code: 146245 - Corporate Client Services – Pretoria, and in the reference field type in your licence number and call sign.

#### TWO CONTESTS IN THIS WEEK

The first leg of the popular SARL 80 m QSO Party is on the air from 17:00 to 20:00 UTC on Thursday 2nd April 2020 with phone activity between 3 603 and 3 650 kHz and between 3 700 and 3 800 kHz. The exchange is a RS report, your call sign and your name. You earn 10 points for each QSO with a South African station and 15 points for a QSO with a station outside South Africa. Log sheets in MS Excel format ONLY must be submitted by 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020 to [zs5lp@vodamail.co.za](mailto:zs5lp@vodamail.co.za). The rules are on page 30 of the Blue Book.

The first RaDAR Challenge of 2020 takes place from 00:00 UTC to 23:59 UTC on Saturday 4th April 2020 RaDAR operators define their own operating time schedule for the maximum, single period, four-hour session. CW, SSB, FM or any legal amateur radio digital mode can be used on all amateur bands including cross band contacts via amateur radio satellites. The exchange is your call sign, your name, a RS or RST report and your grid locator. Log sheets must be

submitted by 11th April 2020 by e-mail to edleighton@gmail.com. Get all the information on page 27 of the Blue Book. With the lock down you will have to operate from your garden.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

#### WIN A SARL MEMBERSHIP WITH MY PROJECT

Your project can win you membership to the SARL for 2020/2021. With 21 days of lock down ahead, there is time for projects (excluding mowing the lawn or painting the bathroom). The Editor of Radio ZS is looking for an article with photographs and diagrams of your project for the May and June issues of Radio ZS. The best article each month will be awarded with an SARL Membership for the new financial year. Get the information on page 10 of the April 2020 Radio ZS.

#### WHO IS SARAH?

The April 2020 Radio ZS will introduce you to Sarah. Read all about her on page 11, as she is going to change your amateur radio operating! We tell you about Attracting Youth to Amateur Radio, the SARL Hamnet Workshop, the West Coast Radio Group Fox Hunt and an Automatic Antenna Selector. There are amateur radio portable operation notes, information about the IARU Region 1 operating award, and we ask One Fuse or Two?

There is a Linked Dipole for portable operations, a loop for 432 MHz, a portable QRP antenna and a discussion of Dipoles versus Verticals. What is High-speed telegraphy? We pay a visit to Hobby-X and more in this edition of Radio ZS that will be available for download from Monday 30 March.

#### THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF THE SARL WEDNESDAY 80 M CLUB SPRINT

Fifty three logs were received for the second leg of the SARL 80 m Club Sprint held on 18 March 2020 with 996 QSOs reflected. The results are in HF Happenings 892.

1<sup>st</sup> Boland ARC – 1 038 points (21 logs)

2<sup>nd</sup> West Rand ARC – 958 points (18 logs)

3<sup>rd</sup> Hibiscus ARC – 150 points (3 logs)

The results after two legs of the Sprint:

1<sup>st</sup> Boland ARC – 1 980 points

2<sup>nd</sup> West Rand ARC – 1 974 points

3<sup>rd</sup> Bo-Karoo ARC – 460 points

#### PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to remain at low levels. There are currently no sunspots visible. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around one. With the recent equinox, the 15 to 30 m bands may, especially late afternoons, provide some good DX fun. There may also even be some surprise 10 m openings. Please visit the website [spaceweather.sansa.org.za](http://spaceweather.sansa.org.za) for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

Today until midnight UTC – the CQ WPX SSB Contest

2 April – The SARL 80 m QSO Party

4 April – The RaDAR Challenge

10 April – Good Friday

12 April – Easter Sunday

13 April – Family Day

18 April - World Amateur Radio Day; the Autumn QRP Sprint and the ZS4SRK Balloon contest

19 April – the ZS4 Sprint

21 and 22 April – the Lyrids meteor showers

To conclude our bulletin, a quick overview of our main news item:

Dear Members, with everyone now in preparation for the 21-day national lockdown and disrupting our normal lives in a way that some of us have not seen before in our lifetimes, I would like to convey a few remarks that impact on SARL services. The office will be closed during the national lockdown. E-mails will be processed and answered. No decision to postpone the RAE in May 2020 has been made. We will keep you informed. Ensure to pay your amateur licence on time. Do not forget the Club licences!

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This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the news inbox link on the South African Radio League web page.

News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly amateur radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 Central African Time. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 Central African Time on 3 620 kHz. We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to [artoday@sarl.org.za](mailto:artoday@sarl.org.za).

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, edited by Dave Reece, ZS1DFR and read by .....

From the news team, stay healthy, adhere to the regulations and the best wishes for the week ahead.